



## Damaged unit of South Pars refinery back in operation, CEO says

### Economy Desk

A damaged unit at the South Pars refinery's Phase 14, hit by the Israeli regime in its first strike on Iran's oil and gas sector has resumed operations, according to a senior official from the Oil Ministry. Toraj Dehqani, Head of Pars Oil and Gas Company, commended the efforts of the company's employees, stating, "Throughout the 12-day conflict with Israel, gas industry personnel continued sustained gas extraction from the shared South Pars field without interruption, demonstrating unwavering dedication and sacrifice." South Pars, the world's largest gas field, is located offshore in Iran's southern Bushehr Province and accounts for the lion's share of the country's gas production. Iran and Qatar share the field, where it is known as the North Dome. Separately, Nour News reported on Thursday that gas production continued uninterrupted and the damaged unit was repaired within approximately 10 days. The Israeli strike on June 14 caused a fire in one of the four units of Phase 14, which has since been extinguished.



Israel launched an air offensive against Iran on June 13, attacking nuclear, military, and residential sites. The attacks resulted in the deaths of several military personnel, nuclear scientists, and civilians. Meanwhile, IRNA quoted Hamid Reza Saqafi, CEO of Petro Pars Group, as saying that amid regional tensions and security threats in the Persian Gulf, the group successfully completed operations to receive sour

gas from offshore sources and commission the fourth train of the Phase 14 South Pars refinery's sweetening unit – all achieved through reliance on domestic expertise. The Phase 14 refinery is the thirteenth and final processing facility at the shared South Pars gas field. This refinery is responsible for sweetening the sour gas extracted from the Phase 14 offshore platforms and forms the onshore section of the project.

## Foreign exchange reserves, trade in favorable state: *Chamber head*

### Economy Desk

The Head of the Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce expressed satisfaction with the country's foreign exchange reserves and trade situation despite the 12-day war imposed by the Zionist regime against Iran. In an interview with IRNA on Friday, Mehrdad Saadat stated, "The country's foreign exchange reserves and trade situation are favorable," adding, "Contrary to the enemies' assumptions, this war created no problems for domestic production and trade." Referring to the conflict, Saadat noted, "This transgressor war by the Zionist regime strengthened unity among the people, busi-

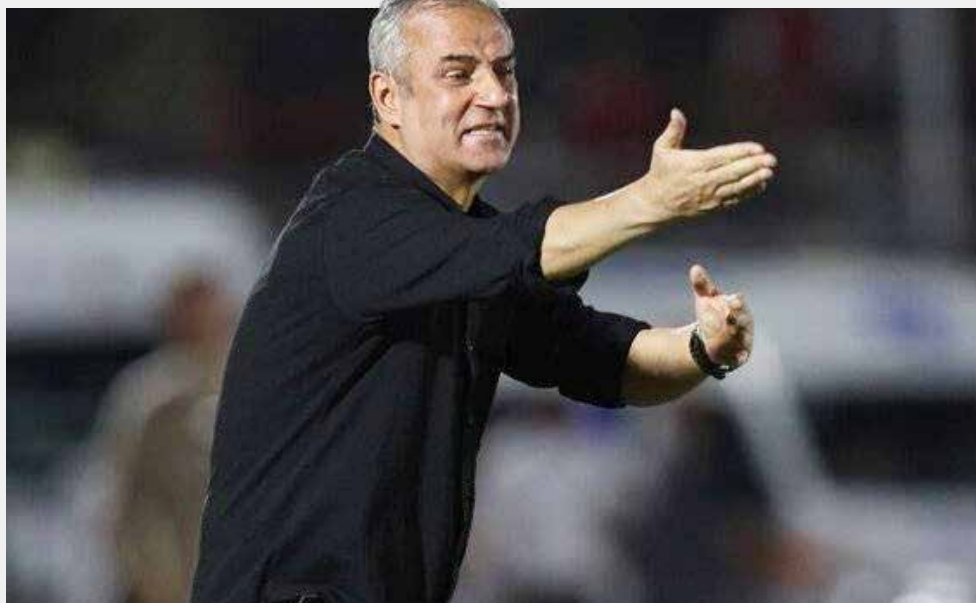
nesses, and the government." "A robust sense of solidarity has emerged, enabling us to successfully navigate this period," he affirmed. According to Saadat, "Over recent days, the private sector and producers remained committed to their duties and endeavored to increase production. This prevented additional pressure on different societal segments while shielding people from unemployment and financial crisis." He highlighted that "some factories added extra shifts to swiftly meet public needs," emphasizing that "increased shifts and output demonstrate strengthened solidarity between citizens, economic actors, and the government."

The chamber head stressed that members of joint Iran-Turkey commerce chambers and other trade bodies "maintained production and trade continuity to safeguard the economic system from disruption." Saadat further observed, "Increased production and exports generate foreign exchange revenue, granting the Central Bank of Iran greater flexibility in market management." The economic actor concluded by emphasizing, "Foreign exchange reserves remain favorable. Rising goods exports and oil prices will further boost these reserves, facilitating foreign exchange market management and mitigating currency fluctuations."



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## Kartal at crossroads over Persepolis future amid regional tensions



● ISNA

### Sports Desk

Turkish head coach Ismail Kartal is reportedly in talks with Persepolis over terminating his contract with the Persian Gulf Pro League club amid political tensions between Iran and Israel. Israel launched an aerial aggression on Iranian territory in the early hours of June 13, which led to a 12-day war, before a ceasefire went into effect between the two countries on Tuesday. Citing his family's concerns about further conflict, Kartal, who is currently in his home country, has told the Tehran Reds that he will inform the club of his final decision on Monday, according to the Varzesh3 news website.

Kartal's contract with the Iranian top-flight giant runs until June 2026. The former Fenerbahce manager was appointed to the Reds job in January, leading the club to eight wins and four draws in 16 games across all competitions as Persepolis finished third to Tractor and Sepahan in the Iranian league – a lowest finish for the club in nine seasons – while crashing out of the AFC Champions League Elite and the Iranian Hazfi Cup. Should Kartal part ways with Persepolis, he will become the second foreign coach to leave the Iranian league in recent days following Frenchman Patrice Carteron. Carteron stepped from his role at Sepahan last week, before the

club named ex-Iran international and club legend Moharram Navidkia as the new head coach. Navidkia, 42, who had been without a job since leaving Mes Rafsanjan last October, led Sepahan to a runner-up finish in the domestic league in the 2020/21 season in his first spell at club. Iranian league champion Tractor, meanwhile, rejected rumours of its foreign employees, including Croatian manager Dragan Skocic, demanding Tractor exit, writing on X that they will all report for preseason. Croatian trio Igor Postonjski, Tomislav Strkalj, and Domagoj Drozdek, as well as Portuguese midfielder Ricardo Alves played an essential part to help Tractor lift a maiden top-flight trophy in May.

## Iranian boys learn fate at volleyball U21 world meet

### Sports Desk

Iranian boys will begin their title defence at the FIVB U21 World Championship against Kazakhstan on August 21 in Jiangmen, China. The two Asian teams will be joined by Poland, Canada, South Korea, and Puerto Rico in Pool B of the preliminary phase at the 24-team tournament. Iran will face Puerto Rico in its second game on Aug. 22 before taking on South Korea, Canada, and Poland, respectively, until the final day of the group stage.

The top four teams in each of the four groups will progress to the last-16 round. Meanwhile, the Iranian under-19 team was pitted against Egypt, Italy, Poland, Spain, and Tunisia in Pool C of the upcoming Boys' World Championship – starting July 21 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Adel Gholami's boys will get their campaign underway against Spain on July 24 and then play Poland, Tunisia, Egypt, and Italy, respectively, until the final round of the group fixtures. The top four will advance to the round of 16.



● volleyball.ir